



TOOLBOX OF IDEAS

CAROUSEL ACTIVITY

The instructor hangs 5 or 6 pieces of chart paper, laminated poster boards, white boards, etc. around the room. A question or prompt that is focused on determining the prior knowledge or experience of the participants should be written on each one. Participants think about the questions/prompts and then respond to the ones that they have some knowledge of either by writing on sticky notes or by using dry erase markers and writing directly on the poster boards or white boards. Instructor moves around the room, encouraging group discussion and commenting on responses.

- This structure is good for brainstorming prior knowledge
- It gives every student an equal opportunity to respond and participate
- It allows students to respond only to those questions/prompts that they have some knowledge of
- It does not judge the quality of a student's response
- It can be a "silent" activity

MODIFICATION

- Students are divided into small groups
- Each group has a recorder and uses a particular color marker or sticky note
- Each group is assigned to a question/prompt to begin with. The group has about 3 minutes to think about and respond to the question/prompt. Time is called and each group moves to the next question/prompt, moving clockwise
- Instructor may encourage a group discussion following the activity